

4 ACSA airports awarded global service quality accolades

The Airport Service Quality (ASQ) Awards has awarded four airports operated by Airports Company South Africa (ACSA) top spots in their respective categories. The awards measure services of more than 390 airports around the world.



Marcos Lana via [Wikimedia Commons](#)

The ASQ awards are administered independently by Airports Council International (ACI), the trade association for the world's airports. The results are based on ACI's programme for airport service quality that requires consistent performance over 12 months.

Three airports in regional centres featured strongly in the ACI Awards for 2019. **Kimberley Airport** is a second-time recipient of an award in the size category for airports with fewer than 2-million passengers a year. Also recognised at the top of this category are **George Airport** and **Upington Airport**, which was also top in its category the previous year.

King Shaka International Airport was again top among its peers, receiving the ASQ accolade in its category for airports with 5 to 15 million passengers a year. The airport has recently consolidated its annual passenger figures above the 6.2-million mark.

Maintaining service excellence

While the awards are based on overall satisfaction, the ASQ programme provides airports with monthly reports on performance against service standards that affect passengers from end-to-end at an airport. These standards cover airport experiences such as check-in, way-finding, security, passport control, general airport environment, arrival services, access to airport facilities, parking and transport links.

Surveys are done at departure points in both domestic and international terminals.

Airports Company South Africa chief executive officer Mpumi Mpofu, says: "It is wonderful to see that our smaller airports are big on quality, while our colleagues at King Shaka International Airport continue to maintain their high service standards. We are especially pleased because these awards apply the same standards to airports around the world in measuring the opinion of passengers at each airport.

"An airport is a very complex place where dozens of internal and external service providers have to collaborate continuously to ensure that passengers get the kind of service they expect. We must therefore also thank these service providers for their contributions at each airport. Of course, we don't always get it 100% right, but we will continue striving to meet the highest global standards of service because making a positive impression on our passengers is what ultimately drives business performance," says Mpofu.

ACI World Director General Angela Gittens adds: "The Airport Service Quality Awards represent the highest possible recognition for airport operators around the world and recognize excellence in customer experience. The awards this year have been won by a diverse group of winning airports from around the world which illustrates the industry-wide commitment to delivering exceptional customer experience.

"Delivering a better customer experience is an important business strategy in an increasingly competitive airport industry. ACI's global ASQ programme is the only one that not only recognises excellence but also provides airports with objective measurement and benchmarking to help drive their performance," says Gittens.

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